

What is claimed is:

1. An electronic document classification system for classifying electronic documents received through a network, comprising:

5 a criteria table for storing predetermined criteria for items included in the electronic documents;

a score counter provided corresponding to each of the electronic documents; and

a controller configured, for each of the items included in the electronic documents, to compare the item with a corresponding criterion stored in the criteria table, to obtain a score based on the comparison result, and to add the obtained score to the score counter;

wherein the controller is further configured to assign a priority to each of the electronic documents in accordance with the value of the score counter corresponding to the electronic document.

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2. The electronic document classification system of claim 1, further comprising a score table for storing scores to be assigned based on the comparison results, and

20 wherein the controller is further configured to obtain the score by referring to the score table.

3. The electronic document classification system of claim 1, wherein the criteria table is provided corresponding to the kind of electronic document.

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4. The electronic document classification system of claim 1, wherein the network is the Internet;

wherein the controller is further configured to provide an input form page in which a user inputs the contents of the electronic document; and

wherein the electronic document is transferred to the electronic document classification system by clicking a button provided on the input form page.

5. The electronic document classification system of claim 1, wherein the transferred electronic documents are temporally stored in an external server provided outside the classification system; and

wherein, when a predetermined amount of the electronic documents are stored in the external server or when a predetermined time has elapsed, the electronic documents stored in the external server are transferred to the classification system.

6. The electronic document classification system of claim 1, wherein the controller is further configured, in response to a request for printing the electronic document, to lay out the contents of the electronic document on paper in accordance with the size of the paper.

7. The electronic document classification system of claim 5, wherein the controller is further configured, in response to a request for printing the electronic document, to place an attached file on a predetermined position of the paper if the attached file is included in the electronic document.

8. The electronic document classification system of claim 1, wherein the controller is further configured to determine whether the electronic document is acceptable based on the assigned priority; and

wherein the controller is further configured to generate an electronic mail for a rejection notice if it is determined that the electronic document is not acceptable, and to generate an electronic mail for an acceptance notice if it is determined that the electronic document is acceptable.

9. The electronic document classification system of claim 1, further comprising:

a determination result storage for storing the value of the assigned priority for each of the electronic documents;

wherein the controller is further configured to provide a page in which a user can modify the value of the assigned priority; and

wherein the controller is further configured to update the value of the assigned priority stored in the determination result storage in response to an instruction for modification provided by the user on the page.

10. The electronic document classification system of claim 1, further comprising a history data storage for storing the progress relating to the electronic document; and

wherein the controller is further configured to provide a page in which a user can check on the progress of handling the electronic documents.

11. A method for classifying electronic documents, comprising:

(a) providing a criteria table for storing predetermined criteria for items included in the electronic documents;

(b) providing a score counter corresponding to each of the electronic documents;

5 (c) receiving electronic documents through a network; and

(d) for each of the items included in each of the electronic documents,

i) comparing the item with the criterion corresponding to the item,

10 ii) obtaining a score based on the comparison result, and

iii) adding the obtained score to the score counter; and

(e) assigning a priority to each of the electronic documents in accordance with the value the score counter corresponding to the electronic document.

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12. The method for classifying electronic documents of claim 11, wherein the step i) further comprising referring to a score table for storing scores to be assigned based on the comparison results.

20 13. The method for classifying electronic documents of claim 11, wherein the criteria table is provided corresponding to the kind of electronic document.

14. The method for classifying electronic documents of claim 11, wherein the network is the Internet;

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wherein the step (d) further comprising:

providing an input form page in which a user inputs the contents of the electronic document; and

activating a transfer of the electronic document in response to a click of a button provided on the input form page.

16. The method for classifying electronic documents of claim 11,  
5 further comprising activating an internal process in response to a request provided by a user, the internal process including at least one of inquiry, approval, modification, e-mail generation and printing processes.

17. The method for classifying electronic documents of claim 16,  
10 wherein the internal process includes a printing process; and wherein, in response to a request for printing the electronic document, laying out the contents of the electronic document on paper in accordance with the size of the paper.

18. The method for classifying electronic documents of claim 16,  
15 wherein the internal process is performed via interaction between a user and a personal computer.

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